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<sup>A</sup>  
THE  
AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEES

AT WORK

IN

VERMONT



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Vermont Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee  
Burlington, Vermont  
January 1955

## FOREWORD

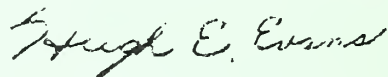
This material is prepared primarily for the use of newly-elected county and community ASC committeemen to assist them in understanding their job.

We welcome the new committeemen to our group and extend our appreciation to the re-elected committeemen. We hope that all committeemen will do everything possible to keep up to date on Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation activities. It is on the effective participation of community committeemen that this program depends. Do your job well.

There has been a committee system in Vermont since April of 1936, nearly 19 years. The names of the committees have changed but the basic job has not. Vermont committeemen have been active and have made our program one of the best. We are proud of this and proud of the fact that Vermont is one of the leading states in ACP participation.

Your questions and suggestions will be appreciated.

For Your State Committee



Hugh E. Evans, Chairman

Other Members: James W. Williams  
B. Frank Myott  
J. E. Carrigan, Ex-Officio

State Office: A. F. Heald, State Administrative  
Officer  
E. N. Blondin, Fieldman  
C. B. Doane, Fieldman

## THE PRIMARY ASC JOB IN VERMONT IS THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

The initials ACP stand for Agricultural Conservation Program. This program was authorized by an Act of Congress and came into existence in 1936.

The program recognizes the need for additional conservation of our soil, land and forest resources, and provides a system whereby the Government and farmer can join together in a program of conservation. This provides for a farmer-consumer effort to encourage and financially help farmers to carry out needed conservation practices so that the farms may continue to produce.

### Conservation Needs

#### National

Here are some National facts which point to the need for conservation:

##### 1. Losses in Agriculture

A recent report by the Agricultural Research Service of the USDA states: "Soils. Deterioration--mainly erosion--and flood damage on croplands, ranges, and watersheds annually amount to \$1.5 billion. Some 500,000 acres of cropland are lost to cultivation every year. Furthermore, yields go down and costs go up on the land that remains in use."

##### 2. Population Increases

We have more than 7,000 additional people in this country every day. This is a net increase and represents 290 persons every hour, or nearly 5 persons every minute. Today our production appears to be adequate but if we do not take good care of our soils, will it be adequate in years to come?

##### 3. Crop Acres Per Person Smaller

In 1920 there were approximately  $3\frac{1}{4}$  crop acres per person in the United States. In 1950 this had dropped to  $2\frac{1}{4}$  acres for each person. The decrease in the number of harvested crop acres for each person is due largely to the rapid rise in population. The population is still rising. The number of crop acres for each person can be expected to decline further.

#### Vermont

A study of the conservation needs of the State has been made in cooperation with the Agronomy Department and Experiment Station of the University of Vermont and the State Soil Conservation Service.



The tabulation below gives a quick picture of some of the more important needs:

#### Soil Needs

Ground limestone needed annually - 300,000 tons  
20% superphosphate needed annually - 225,000 tons  
50% muriate of potash needed annually - 90,000 tons

#### Other Needs

In addition, the same study shows that the following conservation work needs to receive attention:

Improved pastures through seeding - 350,000 acres  
Clearing land - 300,000 acres  
Fencing of range and woodland - 2,220,000 acres  
Mowing weeds in pasture - 500,000 acres  
Drainage work through  
    Open ditches - 120,000 acres  
    Enclosed drains - 30,000 acres  
Diversion ditches - 333,000 rods  
Contour stripcropping - 146,667 acres  
Forest improvement by  
    Planting trees - 128,000 acres  
    Improvement of stand - 1,000,000 acres  
Removing of stone walls and hedgerows - 18,900 acres  
Riprap work to hold streambanks - 750,000 square rods of surface

#### Objectives of ACP

The over-all objectives of ACP are:

- A. To increase soil fertility by increasing the mineral content of our soils. Most of these soils have been and still are deficient in calcium, and are to a greater or lesser degree deficient in phosphorus and potash.
- B. To prevent erosion of the soil and to conserve the water resources of the State by creating a thick grass sod and luxuriant soil cover.
- C. To protect maple sugar orchards from grazing, thus promoting growth of young maples.
- D. To protect and improve forest cover by reforestation, selective cutting and other sound forestry improvement practices.
- E. In cooperation with other agricultural agencies in the State, develop local farm leaders in each county who will:
  1. Be better informed on farm problems.
  2. Be better able to assist farmers in making the best use of their soil resources.



3. Be better able to assist the farmers in each community to make the best use of soil and forestry improvement practices offered under the Agricultural Conservation Program.
4. Be better able to perform their responsibilities as good citizens in a democracy.

#### How the ACP Operates

The ACP stimulates the adoption of soil-building practices on farms by making payments for selected practices which are listed each year in a practice handbook.

The program is developed from the recommendations of the community and county committees as they reflect the needs at the grass roots. The State Handbook of practices is drawn up and approved by the State Committee working with the National and State Forest Service representatives and the State Soil Conservationist. The provisions and practices are within the framework of the National Bulletin.

The program is administered through the locally-elected county and community committeemen. There are 42 county committeemen and 507 community committeemen serving the program as it is operated in Vermont at the present time. Through this service they develop qualities of leadership which are a valuable asset to the community and State.

The average cost per farm enrolled in the program for the fiscal year 1952 for the committeemen's work in administering ACP and the other ASC programs in Vermont was, county committee \$1.61, and community committee \$3.11. These men receive pay on a per day basis for time worked only.

The program, through furnishing lime and fertilizers on a contract basis, has kept the costs of these materials at a lower level than they would have been otherwise. In working with the railroads in connection with the transportation of the materials, freight rates have been reduced in many instances.

The tabulation on the attached sheet entitled "Use of Funds 1936 - 1953\*" by years indicates that the farmer has been and is contributing in cash and services considerably more than the cost of the program to the Government.

#### Some ACP Accomplishments

Accomplishments under the program can be divided into two parts: Accomplishments in getting conservation practices adopted, and accomplishments in developing community leadership.

## Practices Carried Out

The table below outlines practices carried out in Vermont, 1936-1953, inclusive:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Accomplished 1936-1953 Inc.</u>	<u>Needed</u>	<u>Accomplished 1 9 5 3</u>
Lime	1,192,030 Tons	300,000 Annually	63,032
Super (20% Equiv.)	526,406 "	225,000 "	27,475
Potash (50% " )	52,720 "	90,000 "	9,700
Mulching	16,749 "	33,000 "	690
Planting Trees	5,983 Acres	128,000 Acres	478
Improving Woodland	10,762 "	1,000,000 "	1,815
Fencing	64,746 Rods	2,220,000 "	5,820
Clearing Land (1941-1953)	27,780 Acres	300,000 "	5,212
Open Ditches (1947-1953)	979,024 Cu.Yds.)		144,430
Tile Drains (1947-1953)	67,766 Lin.Ft.)	150,000 "	3,613
Diversion Ditches (1949-1953)	10,021 Rods )		3,040
Riprap (1940-1953)	18,977 Sq. Yds.		1,629
Farm Ponds (1950-1953)	449 Ponds		191
Hurricane Clean-up (1939-40)	30,000 Acres		
Seedings - Clover (1936-1940)	127,289 "		
Seedings - Alfalfa (1937-1940)	18,154 "		
Sod Waterways	17,895 Cu. Yds.		17,895 Cu. Yds.
Cover Crops	565 Acres		565 Acres

## Soil Sampling Service

In addition to the above practices the program has helped stimulate additional soil sampling and analysis work. Samples are taken by committeemen as requested by farmers. In some counties a lime test is run on the farm. In others the samples are assembled and sent to the Soil Testing Laboratory at the State College. Several thousand samples have been taken in the past few years.

## ASC-SCS 5% Agreements

In recent years our Vermont counties have entered into agreements with the Soil Conservation Service for the purpose of obtaining technical assistance in connection with those practices for which that agency has the responsibility for the technical phases. In the 1954 program \$23,570.25 were transferred to the SCS under these agreements.

### Working With Others

State and county offices and State, county and community committeemen have through the years worked with other agricultural agencies in carrying out the Agricultural Conservation Program. In recent years the Soil Conservation Service and the Forest Service have shared joint responsibility with State and county committees in the development of ACP programs.

### Developing Leaders

Since the Agricultural Conservation Program is run by farmers, its operation in Vermont has helped develop the community, county and State committeemen into farm leaders. By administering the program they have become more interested in conservation work and have helped very materially in getting others interested in farming the conservation way.

### OTHER ASC ACTIVITIES

In addition to the administration of the Agricultural Conservation Program, State and county committees have been active in the following:

#### Wheat and Tobacco Marketing Programs

Vermont was notified in May 1953 that all states were included in the Wheat Allotment Program for the 1954 crop year. This made it necessary to conduct a survey in all counties to determine the history of wheat acreage for the years 1951, 1952, and 1953 in order to have a basis for establishing base acreages and allotments. Based on the results obtained by this survey Vermont's acreage allotment was 308 acres. On the basis of later figures for three counties, 30 additional acres designated for these counties were released from the National reserve. County allotments were released to the counties on July 31, 1953.

Marketing quotas for cigar filler and binder tobacco were approved for Vermont. We still have one tobacco grower in Windham County so this program is handled by that county.

#### Price Support Programs

In the field of price support, the Vermont ASC Committee has concerned itself with keeping up to date on the over-all activities of the various price support programs that would affect the State's agriculture such as those for dairy products, honey, wheat, corn and the purchase and loan programs. Information on these has been passed along to the county offices and, through publicity, the farmers have been kept informed.

## MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

### Conservation Workshop

We have cooperated with the University of Vermont by assisting at the college in the conducting of a summer course in conservation.

### Outdoor Conservation Laboratory

The Vermont ASC Committee participated in the Outdoor Conservation Laboratory sponsored by the Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs in cooperation with the Vermont State agencies concerned with conservation of all natural resources.

The Laboratory was a 10-day course of orientation and field trips covering the subjects of minerals, soil, ACP, water, forests, and wildlife. The attendance consisted of 25 teachers of graded and high school level who were awarded scholarships for the Laboratory.

### Green Pastures Program

The Vermont ASC Committee continued to help plan and promote the State Green Pastures Program. At all levels committeemen gave help in the judging work.

The program has demonstrated emphatically the importance of efficient use of lime and fertilizer and good land management in the development of a good roughage program for dairy farmers. The accomplishment in such development is accelerated each year the program is carried on.

### School Lunch Program

The administration of the School Lunch Program in Vermont is the responsibility of the State Department of Education. The State ASC Committee works with the Department in locating supplies of both local and out-of-State commodities to fill their requested needs.

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We look to community committeemen as leaders in their towns to keep us up to date on the activities outlined in this brieflet.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
The Agricultural Conservation Program in Vermont

USE OF FUNDS 1936 - 1953\*

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount of Gov. Funds</u>	<u>Cash Collected From Farmers</u>	<u>Estimated Add'l Expense of Carrying Out Practices Contributed by Farmer</u>
1936	\$ 305,000	-	\$230,000
1937	447,000	-	500,000
1938	520,000	\$ 20,701	500,000
1939	840,000	86,854	500,000
1940	833,000	50,738	520,000
1941	992,000	61,413	550,000
1942	1,002,000	47,198	700,000
1943	1,062,000	95,156	700,000
1944	1,309,000	-	750,000
1945	815,000	212,113	750,000
1946	997,000	354,082	800,000
1947	834,000	270,000	750,000
1948	678,000	420,631	600,000
1949	1,149,000	740,019	750,000
1950	1,154,000	905,517	750,000
1951	1,221,000	888,762	750,000
1952	1,017,000	818,397	750,000
1953	<u>1,021,000</u>	<u>777,331</u>	<u>750,000</u>
	\$16,196,000	\$5,748,912	\$11,600,000

\*Prepared by Vermont State ASC Office - September 1954



